

Council on the Status of Women  
Department of Social Services, Regional Office  
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Henrico Room, Richmond, VA 23229  
Minutes of April 6, 2011  
Approved as amended on June 15, 2011

In attendance:

Judy Collins, Chairwoman	Laura Mandala
Kathy Baske Young	Ben Greenberg
Amelia Ross-Hammond	Marcella Germanotta
Annie Kasper	Maricel Quintana-Baker

Staff: Nikki Nicholau

The chairwoman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

The agenda was reviewed with two changes. The following items were added:

- Status of individuals not completed Financial Interest Statements and Conflict of Interest Training.
- Review of disclaimer added to resource directory.
- Council moving forward

Due to late arrivals, the agenda was rearranged slightly.

Track 1: Leadership Resources for Women

Ms. Germanotta provided update on the progress for the Track 1 work plan

- The disclaimer statement developed by Ms. O'Beirne and Mr. Muhammad was added to the list of Leadership Resources for Virginia Women.
- All links were checked by Ms. Germanotta with only one not working. It was corrected.
- An application for listing on the site has been developed and will be posted at the Council's website.
- An e-mail will be sent to all organizations listed in the resource directory indicating that they are listed, suggesting a possible link back to the Council's page and encouraging them to send the application for listing on to other organization.

A recommendation was made to send the letter and application for membership to all Chambers of Commerce or at least the ones in larger metropolitan areas. Staff will provide the link to a list of all chambers operating in Virginia.

Track 2: STEM

A lively discussion ensued related to the planned STEM essay related to the participant target group (middle school versus high school), the criteria for participation, and theme of the essay. Other discussion focused on who would serve as judges, what the prizes would be, as well as the topic. A sub-committee was formed to deal with these questions consisting of Dr. Hammond, Ms. Mandela, Ms. Germanotta and Dr. Quintana-Baker. The chair will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.

Preliminary consensus was that the contest would be targeted at girls, who are junior and seniors with a GPA of 2.5 or above. The theme would be aspirational in terms of what would they see themselves achieving in the fields of science, technology, math or engineering. Possible partners or sources of judges or scholarships include Dominion, Lockheed-Martin, NASA, and the Society of Women Engineers. Possible venues for announcing the contest included statewide organization of home schoolers, school boards, school superintendents, private schools, principals and science teachers. It was suggested that the Council approach the First Lady McDonnell about being honorary chairwoman after the committee will develop a more comprehensive plan for the initiative.

It was also noted that the minutes of the last meeting should be amended to change the target date for the contest to March 2012 rather than March 2011.

#### Approval of Minutes

After a short break for lunch, the Council meeting continued with the approval of the amended minutes from the January 11, 2011 meeting/

#### Legislative Report

Mr. Greenberg reported on HB2520 (Peace) and SB1471 (Martin), which had originally sought to eliminate the Council on the Status of Women. A substitute bill was introduced in sub-committee of both houses which reinstated the section of the code establishing the Council. It was felt that this would open the door for new appointments to be made in July.

The Council discussed possible orientation activities for new members and a letter to the Governor reporting on the activities of the Council over the past year. Ms. Mandela will be the lead on developing an initial draft of the letter.

#### Old Business

Members were reminded to complete the Conflict of Interest training and submit a Financial Interest Statement if they had not done so previously.

#### New Business

Ms. Nicholau mentioned the new Family Strengthening Initiative. Some of the initiatives of the Council may have direct impact on its goals. She will provide additional information at the Council's next meeting.

The Council discussed what its next project might be now that the Leadership Resources for Virginia Women project had been completed. It was decided that the June meeting would focus of this subject. Preliminary ideas included a mentoring guide or a means of connecting young women to possible mentors.

The next meeting is June 15, 2011 and will be held in Richmond.